MEMO: WHO WAS HARVEY LEE OSWALD OF 605 ELSBETH?

Howard Roffman, 4/5/76

This is a rather hasty memo on some points I've been researching which intrigue me greatly. It all revolves around 2 separate entries of Oswald's address as "605 Elsbeth St" on Nov 22--on the heading of Revilles report of the Hosty encOunter, CE 709, and at the top of the Westphal-Parks list, 22H259. Why did the police, or at least Revill, Westphal and Parks use this address for Oswald on 11/22? As Sylvia pointed out in her book, AAF 92, the WC was curious about this, asked Revill where he got the info, and apparantly dropped the matter without going to the original source. I will write the Archives to see if they have anything more (I doubt it).

As Revill explained it to the WC, he got this address from two policemen involved in Oswald's arrest at the Theater, Detectives Carroll and/or Taylor, of the special service bureau (5H41-2)Revill said he did not know where either one got the address but suggested that maybe Oswald himself furnished it. Upon checking, this seems absolutely impossible, and Revill probably was either lying here or mistaken. The only reference to Taylor I could find was his report on the arrest, written 12/3/63 (24H243)Clearly Taylor couldn't have gotten this info from Oswald. He was present for the arrest, but remained behind at the theater to talk to witnesses, and later brought some downtown to make statements. Carroll, whose testimony was given prior to Revill's, rode in the car with Oswald from Theater to police station. In disucssing conversation in the car, Belin asked him "Were any addresses mentioned?" to which he responded, "Not that I recall, no sir." (7H25) Jerry Hill's description is somewhat different, although still no mention of Elsbeth St. He said he remembered Bently (who was never called) reading off two addresses from cards in Oswald's billfold. One was in Oak Cliff, one in Irving. He doesn't remember a Beckley address but thinks the Oak Cliff one might have been on Neely. (7H58, 60) Elmer Boyd testified that at Oswald's first interrogation session, beginning at about 2:20 that afternoon, Oswald was ~~xxx~~ asked where he lived and gave the Beckley St. address (7H124). See also R601 (Fritz version) and R612 (Hosty/Bookhout).

I note also that in Manning Clemments report of 11/22, dictated 11/23, are listed the contents of Oswald's wallet. The only thing with a Dallas address listed is Oswald Library card, bearing his name and the address 602 Elsbeth. (R616)

Now, it is conceivable that this library card could have been a source of misinformation re Oswald's current address. But certainly not as Revill tells it. Taylor could not be Revill's source, and Carroll himself denies it by not being able to recollect any talk about addresses.

Far more disturbing is the entry "HARVEY LEE OSWALD" of "605 ELSBETH" on a list of supposed TSBD emploees dated 11/22/63. This list was tranmitted to Capt. Gannaway, Revill's boss, through Revill, from Detectives Roy W. Westphal and P.M. Parks. (24H259-60) It purports to be "a list of the names and addresses of the employees" of the TSBD, but clearly is not that. As far as I can determine, it is a list of employees <u>who were in the TSBD after the shots</u>. The single exception (besides Oswald) is Givens, 7th on the list. Givens is also the only one on the list (except for names written in) whose address is not given. A call to pick him up went out over the police

radio at 1:46, reporting that he had "left" the TSBD (CE1974, p. 83)

I compared the Westphal/Parks list with the full accounting of TSBD employees and their actions after the shots contained in CE 1381 and found that with very few exceptions, the list ~~is~~ includes everyone who returned to the building after the shots and excludes all those who did not. Of those in the building and not on the list, 5 were together in room 203 and left at about 1:30 (see 22H638, 650, 654, 668, 679). One of those not listed was an old man with a heart condition (22H685--although he remembered giving his name to police in th4 TSBD) and Troy West (22H679).

Information as to how this list came to be made is scant. Despite its obvious importance, neither Westphal nor Parks was called to testify, and I can find no reference to Parks at all other than his signature at the end of the list. One thing is apparent: the list had to be typed subsequent to getting the names in the TSBD, sometime on 11/22. The written notations may have been added 11/22 or later, but I tend to think 11/22. There are many curiousities about the list. Several names are written in at the bottom of page 1, including Linnie Mae Randle, which is crossed out. Why her name? I note also her name was checked, along with several others. Of all those checked, only one, Geneva Hine, did not file an affidavit with the Sherriff's office. There are some minor errors in the list, for example, the second address, "903 WESMONT" should be "902 Westmount" (22H642) There is also some repetition, sometimes suggesting that this is a compilation of several lists, and that no effort was made to consolidate to avoid repetition. For example "MRS. ROBERT A. REID" is later entered as "MRS. R. A. REID". "James Earl Jarman" written at bottom, p. 1, is listed on p. 2 as "JOE EARL JARMAN." Ray Edward Lewis appears twice, separated by only one name. The intervening name is also very interesting, for it appears twice in two forms, first as "LAWRENCE S. FORD" and then as "TERRENCE S. FORD." As we know from CD 354, Terrence Ford was a newsman trapped in the TSBD after the shots, not an employee. Another person on the list who is not an employee is Peggy Bigler Hawkins, who is the wife of a sales agent; she was with the four women listed above her at the time.

Truly Fritz?

I was interested to determine if there was any particular chronology reflected in the list, that is, if the order of the names reflects the order in which the officers spoke to those listed. I think there is some support for this notion, which makes the first entry of Oswald all the more important. Many of the names on the list appear in groups of people who were with each other that afternoon. At the beginning, in fact, note that Avery Davis and Judy Mccully, 2nd and 3rd on the list, were together and returned to the ~~first~~ fourth floor very shortly after the shots (22H642, 663) For that matter, the first 5 people on the list after OSWALD returned to the 4th floor. Several people recall leaving between 2-2:30 and that before leaving they had to "check out with the police (Lawrence, CE JOnes, Stanton, Sanders, Clay, Hendrix). The last three on the list were outside, but reentered with the police at 2:55 to get their coats and "signed out" then.

If this is a chronological listing, then the inference is presented that the first person to give name and address to the police

there was 12:36 dispatch on other channel mentioning TSBD--23H916)

was Harvey Lee Oswald at 605 Elsbeth. My question is whether Westphal or Parks (or perhaps someone else) stopped someone who gave this name and address. This might have been the first person encountered upon entering the TSBD. (I should note, on a purely theoretical basis, that if this "Oswald" identified himself early enough, he could be the person subsequently seen running down the hill to the station wagon by Craig--just a thought.)

Having this idea in mind, I checked the 26 vol. for any tidbit I could find on how the list was prepared. Westphal was at the Trade Mart at the time of the shots. From there he went directly to the TSBD in a car with Revill, Brian and O.J. Tarver (5H34, 48). Brain places the time of leaving the Trade Mart as soon as they heard there was supposed to be a man up in the TSBD. This dispatch went out over the police radio at 12:45 (23H844), although Brian does not specify this is how they heard that report. Assuming that it is, the four would have left sometime after 12:45. They must have arrived at TSBD shortly thereafter. Hill got there when Westphal did (7H45) and when Sims and Boyd got there at 12:58, they met Revill and Westphal in the building (2H319). When asked what they did there, Revill said "We conducted a systematic search of the building, evacuated the people working in the building, and took names addresses, and phone numbers of all of these people before they were permitted to leave." (5H34) The way Revill describes it, the list of names was compiled after the decision to evacuate, as each person left the building. As I mentioned earlier, several of those on the list recalled having to "sign out" with the police. Jarman also described having to "line up to show our identification" (3H208) and Williams described being on the first floor when the police were taking everyone's name, address and searching them (3H182). Truly was confused as to timing, but he recalled on the first floor, " I noticed some of my boys were over in the west corner of the shipping department, and there were several officers over there taking their names and addresses, and so forth." (3H229) He also noticed "other officers in other parts of the building taking other employees, like office people's names." (3H230) The crucial thing is that he made this observation before he called Aiken to get Oswald's address, before he went up to the sixth floor to tell Fritz about Oswald.

So, apparently, the taking of names began before the rifle was found, 1:22, and was going on all over the TSBD, probably not in any really organized fashion, which might account for the repetition in the Westphal list. This account of Truly is supported somewhat by Sims. When he got to the TSBD at 12:58, he went up the elevator and noticed officers on every floor as he went up (7H160).

This is all very relevant to how Oswald's name got on the list. If the list is chronological (or roughly so) and names were being taken before Truly told Fritz about Oswald, then it would seem unlikely that the source for the list was Truly and still have this name appear first in the sequence. There is also another factor which virtually rules out the possibility that Oswald's name was added to the list when Truly gave it to Fritz. There is no dispute that when Truly told Fritz about Oswald, he gave him Oswald's Irving address at the Paines', 2515 West 5th Street (R599--Fritz notes, 3H230--Truly, 4H206-7--Fritz). There is a great deal of controversy as to what Fritz did upon receipt of Oswald's name (see excellent treatment by

Sylvia, AAF 85-90). But obviously, if Fritz had the name Lee Harvey Oswald at 2515 W. 5th, there is no way that could be translated into Harvey Lee Oswald at 605 Elsbeth on the list. Clearly, the source of the entry on the list is other than Truly/Fritz.

What was the source? Can we rule out the possibility that the police , shortly after arriving but long after Oswald left, approached someone and were given the name Oswald at 605 Elsbeth?

Red squad?

There is another more innocent theory, which involves a "which came first"question. We know that Revill prepared his report CE 709 around 3:30 11/22 (5H39-40) By 4:00 that afternoon it was typed and signed. Perhaps Westphal and Parks prepared their list subseqnet to this, had only Oswald's name but no address, and asked Revill for the address. They did transmit the list to Gannaway through Revill on 11/22. But this, if true, does not solve the problem, for we still do not know where Revill got that address.

Note that Westphal left the TSBD with Revill at about 2:50. (5H34) Parks was not in the car with them. According to Revill, one of the reasons he decided to leave the TSBD was that "my unit could possibly do more at our office where we kept all of our files, cataloguing these people, the suspects that were running through my mind at that time." (5H36) Don't forget, Revill and Westphal were in criminal intelligence. As Westphal's list reflects, evidently every name obtained at the book depository was checked out in the special services file. There is a column on the list headed "REF. INT." which probably means "reference intelligence" Every name is marked "NONE" under this heading except 2, Joe Molina and Mrs. J. E. Dean, where apparent file numbers are listed beginning with "INT." We know that Molina was in Revill's files (R237). Presumably, however, Givens also should have been in the files,and Revill did claim to know about his narcotics record, but there is no file listing for him. There is also none for Oswald, but the question comes up whether the Elsbeth street address could have come from police intelligence files. Although the police deny that Oswald was in their files, Sylvia reveals that the Dallas police did encounter someone in April 63 distributing pro-Castro literature (AAF 93, CE 1409) and this was doubtlessly Oswald. There was no arrest, but Revill was informed of it. The only evidence printed are after the fact reports, dated in 1964. But this was Revill's area, and the possibility is clearly suggested that he may have known about OSWALD before.

My curiousity on all this was sparked by a note in Anson's book, page 175. Anson makes several errors here that I can detect, and most of what he says is unfootnoted, undocumented. It all seems to originate with Scott, but is interesting and should be checked. Particularly if it is true, as Anson quotes Scott, that the 112 Army Intelligence Group in Texas carried a "Harvey Lee Oswald" with address 605 Elsbeth. Anson notes that Revill rode with an Army intelligence agent on 11/22, but there is more to the story than he cites, and I have come up with what may be merely a fascinating set of coincidences.

First, note Hosty's testimony. On the morning of 11/22 he had a conference (unrelated to LHO) with "an Army Intelligence agent and an agent of the Alcohol Tax Unit of the Treasury Department." (4H461)

Hosty and the army agent went down to Main and Field at about 11:45 to watch the motorcade. After it passed Hosty ate lunch. He does not say (and was not asked) if he remained with the army man until the motorcade came or what the army man did subsequently. I was wondering if this army agent could have been James Powell. I don't have my Powell file here, but know from CD 354 that Powell gave his position at the time of the shots as at Elm and Houston. He could have left Hosty or moved after the motorcade passed his point at Main and Field. At any rate, I raise the question. There is other significance to this morning meeting of Hosty's, which I'll address later.

We know that Powell took a picutre of the TSBD after the shots, ran to the railroad yards with the police, and then was trapped inside the TSBD for some time, probably about an hour. Revill was also in the TSBD during this period, and he left by car at 2:50. When asked who was in the car, he gave the names Westphal, Brian, and Tarver (5H34). There was one he omitted. When Brian was asked, he added a new person "...and we gave a man a lift, and I don't remember whether he was a CID, I don't know the man, I don't remember whether he was a CIC agent or a CID or OSI, he was some type of, as I recall, Army intelligence man...He was connected with the service and we let him out a couple of blocks, if I recall, up about Field Street, somewhere along in there. Lt. Revill knew him , who he was, and he rode up there with us." (5H57) This is doubtlessly Powell. Note also that he was dropped off near Field St, which would be near where Hosty and his army agent went after their meeting to watch the motorcade.

By coincidence, after dropping off Powell, Revill pulled into the police station and runs into none other than Hosty, who runs up to him and exclaims, "Jack, a Communist killed Presdient Kennedy." (5H34, 49). Revill asked who, and Hosty gave the name, LEE OSWALD. Hosty's account of this part of the conversation is a little more toned down; he claims to have said that Oswald was the main suspect in the assassination (4H463; 17H782). (Question how Hosty knew that--his story is that he'd only been told about Oswald's arrest re the Tippit murder--4H462) Hosty also reveals some important info as to what Revill said to him. He says Revill came running up claiming that he had a "hot lead", that the only person missing from the TSBD was a man named LEE (4H463; 17H781) This indicates that Revill knew about Oswald as of the time he left TSBD; in fact, as Hosty describes it, this is WHY he left TSBD. One wonders if he discussed "Lee" with Powell in the car.

There were also some interesting things going on in the TSBD. We know there was at least one FBI man there within a half hour--Pinkston (24H320; 26H801) and was present when the rifle was photographed. (An FBI agent, Barrett, was also present at the Tippit scene very shortly after the shooting--7H51, 111, and was also present when Oswald was arrested.) Sims and Boyd also report the presence of another man (or men) when the rifle was found: "Mr. Ellsworth and another officer from Alcohol Tax Department were also there." (24H320) Not clear if Ellsworth is also from "alcohol Tax." But recall Hosty's testimony that his 11/22 meeting included army man and "agent of the Alcohol Tax Unit of the Treasury Dept." How many alcohol tax units could there be, with how many agents? I'm not suggesting anything other than the coincidence, but what a

coincidence it seems: Hosty meets with alcohol tax and army intell. agents before assass, afterwords, alcohol tax agent and army agent are in TSBD when all the vital evidence found, Revill drives army man back to office from TSBD on his way back to check on TSBD employee names including Oswald's and runs into Hosty.

Perhaps more striking than the coincidence is the Commission's singular lack of any investigation of any aspect of it, leaving so many obvious mysteries unsolved. Like the Westphal/Parks list. They seemed to go out of their way to avoid Westphal, although he was one of the first to get to the TSBD and was involved in preparing the list with Oswald's incorrect address. Don't forget, when Revill was first deposed, he wasn't asked a thing about 11/22. It was only after Fritz (or Curry?) forced CE 709 on the WC that they went to Revill. But why no questions to anyone on the army intelligence agent when Powell is already in the files? Especially after Revill hides the guy when asked who rode in his car. This is all consistent with the Commission's dread of any intelligence connections. Revill was police intelligence, but the WC steered clear of his special unit. Westphal was a member of it, and the head of it Gannaway, was never questioned even though Revill said it was Gannaway who told him to write a report of the Hosty incident right away. Note also that only Gannaway could confirm if Revill first said that Hosty made the remark he later denied (Brian claimed not to have heard that part of the conversation). All the more need to call Gannaway, making his absence all the more conspicuous.

Another strking example is Shanklin. They had to call him but didn't. Within an hour and½ of the shots, Shanklin was on the phone with FBI headquarters in Washington to tell them that Oswald was in custody and that they had a case file on him. (4H462) And they also find out that just that morning they got report that Oswald had been in touch with Soviet embassy in Washington. Shanklin called Bookhout at police station to make damn sure that Hosty was in on the interrogation as soon as possible (4H238). Also, how could they dare not call Shanklin after Curry informs them in his unpublished 5/28/64 letter that Shanklin had called him and asked him to retract his statement about Revill and Hosty.

I'd welcome any thoughts or information that I missed.